

HOPE OF LOWDEN RESTS ON STAND JOHNSON TAKES

One Sentence From Californian About Boodle Would End Rival's Chance.

By David Lawrence.

(Special Correspondent of The Evening World.)
CHICAGO, June 7 (Copyright, 1920).—Gov. Frank Lowden of Illinois, has the best chance of winning the republican nomination for the Presidency because he has the most skillful and powerful political reserves in the convention, but his fate is entirely in the hands of Senator Hiram Johnson of California, who holds the vote power.

The key to the situation is the strategy in the Johnson camp. One sentence from him—"I will not sanction the nomination of any one for whom delegates were bought," would crystallize the undertone of whispers into a noisy apprehension that the Missouri scandal is sufficient food for Democratic orators to make doubtful a victory in November.

TAKING NO CHANCES WITH DARK HORSES.

William Hale Thompson, National Committeeman from Illinois, made such a statement as he bolted the Lowden household. Senator Borah of Idaho has expressed ominous doubts about the effect of the Missouri exposure on the Lowden boom. But the new "Old Guard," being possessed of a solid determination to put over a tried and true Republican such as they hold Frank Lowden to be, are undismayed.

So the plan is to let the Lowden movement run its natural course, let the balloting go on and see whether the convention is disposed to be concerned over the purchase of delegates in Missouri or whether it accepts as final the reputation of those delegates by the Illinois Governor himself.

An agreement has been reached between the Lowden, Wood and Johnson forces to keep the balloting going, to let ballots be necessary, to ascertain the exact strength of these three leaders. Dark horses and other near-candidates will not be permitted to reap the benefits of a deadlock until it is absolutely demonstrated that none of the three candidates can win. Dismissing for the moment the second stage of the convention in which the dark horses—Hoover, Hughes, Taft, Lammot, Allen and Spruiell—would be considered, the first stage of the fight presents two opportunities for Hiram Johnson. He can make a fight on the convention floor against the treaty of peace and League of Nations or else he can attack the Lowden candidacy as the product of money power.

AGREED ON PLAN FAVORING PEACE TREATY.

The members of the committee who will draft the Republican platform are practically agreed upon the plank on the Treaty of Versailles. They will favor the treaty of peace and the League of Nations as an aspiration and will commend the Republican Senators for opposing adoption in the form in which President Wilson submitted the document, but the ratification of the treaty and league will be favored "with reservations."

Now that doesn't mean "with the Lodge reservations." It means what it says—simply "with reservations." That excludes all the quibbling about the phraseology of some of the Lodge reservations and doesn't tie the hands of the next President of the United States if he happens to be a Republican and wants to alter the programme to meet contingencies in the foreign situation as they are. Ratification "with reservations" will be

a simple, all-inclusive expression of Republican intentions.

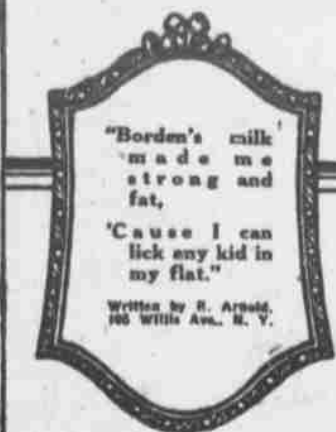
But Hiram Johnson is absolutely opposed to such a plank. Yet whether he will consider it worth while to risk his chances for the nomination on that plank depends upon his sincerity. His ardent admirers insist that he would rather lose the Presidency than recede one inch—he will fight, they say, against the treaty with or without any reservations. But if he should wage a fight on the convention floor he would certainly be overruled, as this convention is too wise to oppose a simple statement such as "ratification with reservations," when it isn't even said how far those reservations can go. So if Johnson made his fight and lost, the veteran politicians are confident that he would eliminate himself from consideration when the balloting began. The moral damage of defeat on the big thing on which Johnson has waged his primary campaign would be irretrievable.

Supporters of Lowden, Wood and the rest don't think Hiram Johnson dares do it. Nor do they believe he will assail Lowden on the Missouri exposure because of the effect that it would have on his own political fortunes. For while Johnson might thus eliminate Lowden, the resentment produced among the Lowden supporters would be sufficient to prevent the selection of Johnson.

JOHNSON HAS VETO CLUB IN HIS HANDS.

Whichever way one turns, it is Hiram Johnson who has the veto club in his hands. He can kill off Lowden and turn the convention to consideration of dark horses. His own oratory may win him support, but the rank and file of the politicians think him too radical and too impulsive to be the Republican nominee. Frankly, they don't like him. And he knows it. Therefore he has everything to gain and very little to lose by open warfare.

And that's what is coming—Johnson on the war path and the convention like a big fury, deciding whether the Missouri exposure is a flash in the pan or a serious flaw in Republican hopes. Men like A. T. Hart of Kentucky, the new Panacea of the situation, who is for Lowden, do not consider the Johnson explosion can affect the sober,



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